

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 22-005

Introduced by Council Member Wagner

Legislative Day No. 22-005 Date: March 15, 2022

AN ACT to propose an amendment to Article II, Legislative Branch, of the Harford County Charter, as amended, by repealing and reenacting with amendments, Section 216, Non-interference with Executive Branch: to provide for ability of the County Council to directly contact officers, agents and employees in the Executive Branch for the purpose of inquiry or information; and to require the submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Harford County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Section 905 of the Harford County Charter.

By the Council, March 15, 2022

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: April 19, 2022

at: 7:15 PM

By Order: *Mylia A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on _____, and concluded on _____.

_____, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland, that Section 216, Non-interference with Executive Branch, of Article II, Legislative Branch, of the Harford County Charter, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article II. Legislative Branch

SECTION 216. Non-interference with Executive Branch

Neither the Council nor any of its members shall attempt to influence the head of any agency of the County government concerning the appointment of any person to, or removal from, any office or employment, nor in any way take part in the appointment of, or removal of, any officer or employee of the County except as specifically provided in this Charter. Formal communications from the Council to the Executive Branch shall be addressed to the County Executive, and, UNLESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INQUIRY OR INFORMATION, neither the Council nor any member thereof shall [give orders either publicly or privately to any subordinate of the County Executive.] DEAL DIRECTLY WITH ANY OFFICER, AGENT, OR EMPLOYEE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that before this Act becomes effective, it shall be submitted to a Referendum of the legally qualified voters of Harford County in accordance with Section 905 of the Charter of Harford County, Maryland, at the General Election to be held in November 2022. There shall be printed on the ballots or ballot labels used at this election a brief summary in understandable language of the purpose of this Act, and underneath the summary, on separate lines, a square or box to the right of and opposite the words “For__,” and a corresponding square or box to the right of and opposite the words “Against__,” so that each voter may vote for or against the provisions of this Act. If a majority of the votes cast in the election are “For__,” the provisions of this Act shall become effective from and after the 30th calendar day following the election, but if a majority of the votes cast

- 1 in the election are “Against___,” the provisions of this Act shall be of no effect and null and void.
- 2 Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted that subject to the provisions of Section 2 of this Act and for
- 3 the sole purpose of providing for the referendum therein required, this Act shall take effect 60 calendar
- 4 days from the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE:

*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that
seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for
distribution to the public and the press.*

Nylia A. Dixon

Council Administrator